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Inaugural Dissertation

Registered March 22^d
1825

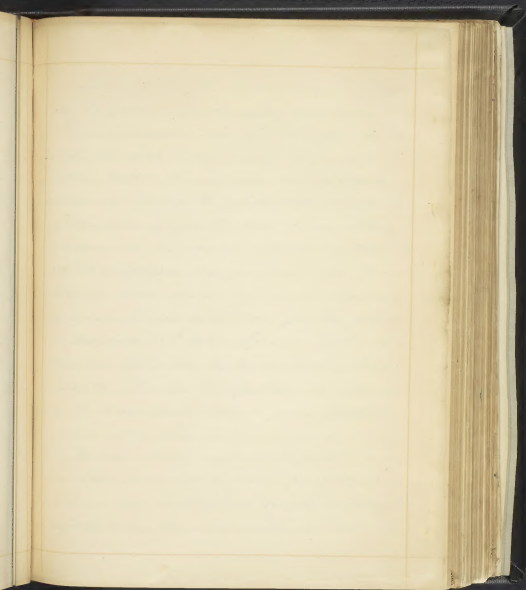
on
Dilious Fever

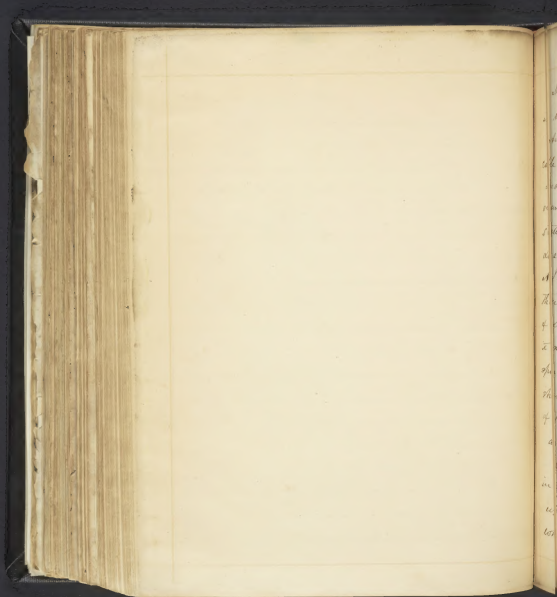
by
Edward F. Logwood

of
Alabama

1825

Page 100
1852

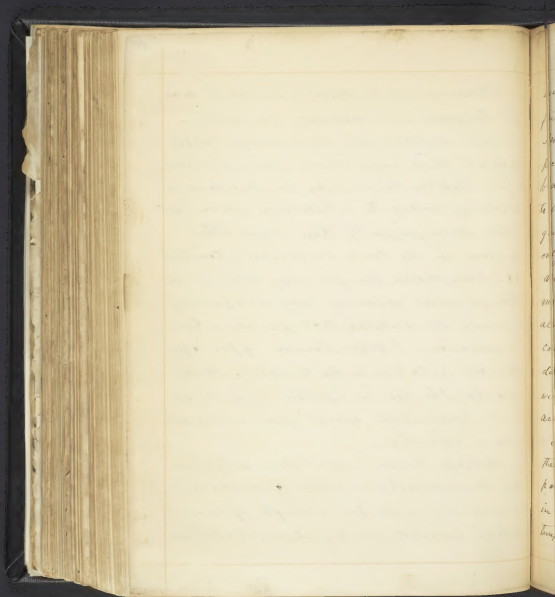




74
Numerous are the diseases incident to man
in his fallen and miserable condition.

And various are the remedies appli-
cable to each individual form of disease.
And Bilious Fever may be considered as
occurring among the inhabitants of the southern
states more frequently than any other
disease in the long Catalogue of Complaints.
I have chosen this for my dissertation,
though well aware of my incapability
of doing the subject that justice which
it demands. I shall however offer a few
opinions relative to the disease. And
should I be too precipitate, or ignorant
of the case shall expect your indulgence
and correction.

Bilious Fever most frequently occurs
in low marshy or moist grounds acted
upon by heat for a length of time,
which generally send forth exhalations



usually termed Marsh Miasmata. And never fail to be prolific sources of this disease. Marsh Miasma has undoubtedly the peculiar effect of inducing fever on human bodies, exposed under certain circumstances to its influence. It is though too generally understood that, Marshes are the only sources from whence these exhalations arise. But they also proceed from moist earth, slime, mud, or, mixed, and also from low damp argillaceous soils, covered with fallen timber in a decaying state. As this timber decays, it emits effluvia, which are deleterious to health, and is almost certain to produce fever,

And we generally find them assuming the Bilious character. They are more powerful, virulent, and concentrated, in hot climates and warm seasons, than in temperate ones. It further appears that the type

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or periodical evolutions of fever which they induce, are governed by the degree of concentrations they possess, the type being more continued and less remittent, in proportion to the power of these exhalations. We however meet with attacks of this fever in high dry and elevated situations, after a long continuance of dry weather, which shews that Marsh Miasma is not the only source from whence Bilious Fever is generated. And is occasionally owing to Epidemic influence, with regard to the nature of this epidemic influence, whether depending on a wet or dry state of the atmosphere, we are at present entirely ignorant.

Proximate Cause

As regards the proximate cause of fever, there is a considerable diversity of

opinions, among the most distinguished medical men. Some supposing it to consist in a morbid matter introduced or generated in the system - The increased action of the heart and arterial vessels, and of nature, to expel the morbid matter from the system. Others supposing it to be owing to an inflammation of bile. And others again attributing it to a spasmodic constriction of the internal vessels on the surface of the body. Which was indeed the doctrine taught by the late Doctor Cullen.

But I think it more probable that the first impression is made on the stomach, and by sympathy communicated to other parts of the body. To investigate these different hypotheses, would lead me into a train of theoretical reasoning inconsistent with the intention



tion of this inaugural dissertation,
on my abilities, and shall therefore
leave the investigation of it for some
one more capable of having the subject
justice than myself.

Proximate Cause

The proximate cause of this disease is
owing to the action of Miasm or human
Miasmata applied or introduced in to the
system. Where Miasmata has been
applied to mankind I have, as a friend
has said, seen more than the falling of
the rays of that bright God of the day
which inspires to a life and heart
rejoice. Some affluence are meted which
are almost certain to produce this dis-
ease. Hence in newly settled countries
where there is a great deal of timber
perhaps this is allowed to decay, and we
often see this fever produced from it



or from marshes which is in fact the most abundant source of this disease, and we most always find it prevailing more in low damp marshy lands than other places. The exhalations arising from mud, mine, slime &c are likewise sources from whence this disease originates. This disease takes place from human miasma. As in visiting a person who is labouring under the disease, there is an effusion from the skin which is productive of the disease at times, or from fomites, we have known the disease to be contracted from the clothes of those who had previously been diseased. And a great many others, might be mentioned But, think those by far the most common, and shall therefore mention no more of them.

Exciting Causes.

Every thing which has a tendency to



enervate the body, may be looked upon
as the exciting cause of fever. And accord-
ingly we find it often arising from
great bodily fatigue, too great an
indulgence in sensual pleasures, intem-
perance in eating and drinking, and
now and then from the suppression of
some long accustomed discharge.

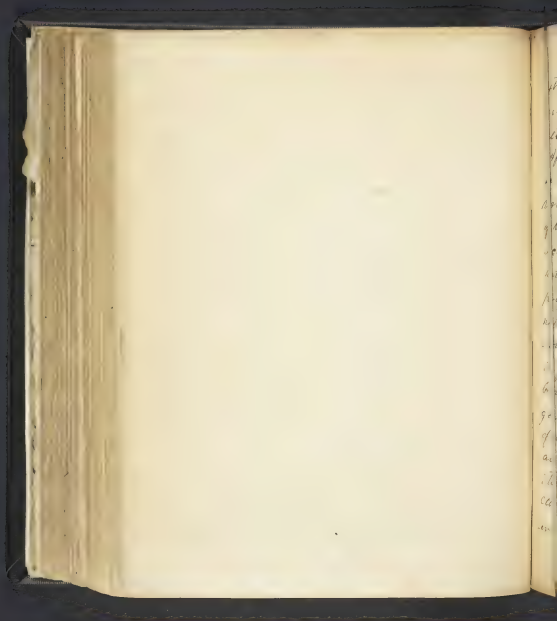
The passions of the mind are also
considered as agents in the product-
ion of fever such as joy, grief, fear,
anxiety &c. But the occurrence of
some other cause seems necessary to
produce this effect. The most usual
exciting cause is cold. The applicati-
on of cold to the body gives a check
to perspiration, and from that
cause produces this disease. And
its morbid effects seem to depend partly
upon the circumstances of the body of



the person to whom it is applied. The circumstances which seem to give to application of cold a dull effect, are, the degree of intensity, the length of time applied or its having a degree of moisture accompanying it. The circumstances which render persons more liable to be affected by cold, seem to be, debility, induced by great fatigue, violent exertions, long fasting, the want of natural heat, some chronic disease, as in diet, intemperance in drinking, sunbathing, exposing the body to cold when heated much beyond its usual temperature, and above all, immoderate exertions of any kind.

Symptoms

Languor, yawning, stretching, quivering, listlessness & pain in the head, back and lumbar vertebrae, and in the



extremities, particularly the lower, nausea and vomiting of bilious matter, occasional chills and flushes of heat. After the fever is established, the pulse becomes full, strong, active and voluminous, there is a determination of blood to the head, severe pain with occasional nausea and vomiting, hot skin, suffused or yellow eyes, oppression about the precordia, tenderness of the epigastric region, and sometimes ictericum. The tongue is generally covered with a dark or brown fur, and the stools very bilious, generally, when under the influence of a cathartic, urine high coloured and scanty, often depositing a lateritious sediment. These symptoms occurring together enable the practitioner to form an accurate diagnosis.



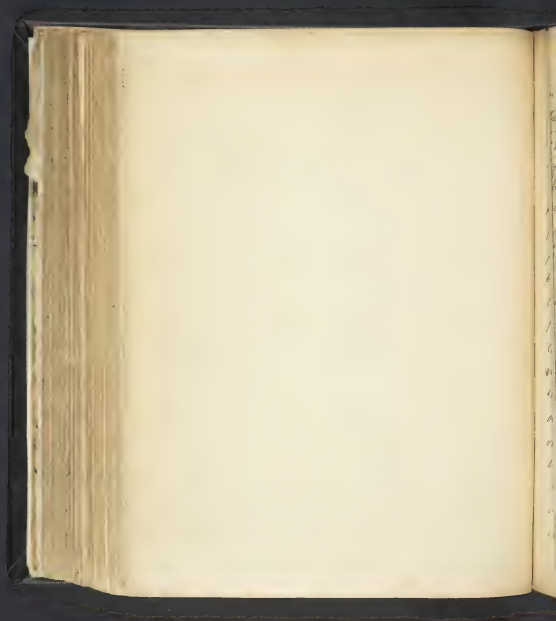
Prognosis

The pulse becoming softer slower and more natural in every respect the tongue clean and moist the skin soft and perspiring, no determination to the head the urine copious and depositing a lateritious sediment the mind tranquil, and clearness of the nervous system are favourable symptoms.

But on the contrary, when there is great anxiety and loss of strength, intense heat, stupor or delirium, irregularity in the pulse, twitching of the hands and fingers and general subcatharticus tenacium, sickness at the ben cloths, hiccups, involuntary discharge by urine and stool and such like symptoms, portray evidently the certain dissolution of the patient.

Treatment

We generally find



in the fever, in stomach and rest of the alimentary canal, affected in a higher degree, than other parts of the body. And therefore emetics and cathartics are usually the first means that present themselves to the notice of the practitioner. In this fever it is necessary to pay early attention to the state of the stomach, and if there be any cruditie or collections of bile producing nausea and vomiting, to dislodge them by administering an emetic. To assist the operation of which, the patient should drink freely of lukewarm water or an infusion of Chamomile flowers. Emetic should be continued during the continuance of the fever, when ever there is nausea or vomiting of bile and the tongue furred,



as they completely correct the vitiated
secretions of the stomach. For this pur-
pose The Tartarised antimony is prefer-
red either alone or in conjunction
with ipecacuanha. To remove the
feculent contents of the bowels it is
necessary to give some purgative, the
best of which is calomel, ipecac. When
most slow and gamboze, and thro
ughout the remainder of the disease
the body should be kept open or in
a soluble state if necessary by the
repetition of some of the above men-
tioned medicines, or Castor oil or ap-
erient enemata at the occasion may
require. When the disease seems to be
kept up by a permanent secretion of
bile, mild purgatives will be still more
necessary. a few grains of calomel, mixed
with a small quantity of ipecac. gamboge



or below generally answer the purpose.

Where the pulse is strong, full and active we should never aim to abstract blood. It is more wisely to excite vascular action, and a weight by no means to be neglected. When the disease has arisen in a young person of plethoric habit, and the attack of fever has been severe, with considerable flushing of the face, redness of the eyes and a full hard pulse, we must then ~~we~~ advise the abstraction of blood or sixteen ounces of blood drawn from a large orifice and not the repeated bleedings by the former mode. There will be greater temporary, but less permanent weakness induced by the evacuation, and a should be repeated as the circumstances of the case demand. It is seldom in such



care to abstract blood previous to the
administration of emetics or purgatives,
as they generally act better after venese-
ction. We should though be cautious
how we use the lancet in warm clim-
ates as it is generally improper to use
the lancet to any great extent, as it prod-
uces great prostration of strength.

But on the contrary by neglecting to let
blood, when the pulse is hard, full, and
tense the respiration hurried, breath hot,
skin dry and the head highly painful,
we should commit a dangerous error
and endanger the life of the patient.
Great thirst proceeds either from a dehu-
den state of the mucous surface of the pri-
mae viae, or from an accumulation of
bile or scordes. If from the former give
all cases of Calomel if from the latter
a gentle emetic. We should also remove



There is great heat, and much thirst
prevails, & are refrigerants. The best
of which is the nitrous oxide, which
may be exhibited with others if not
sufficiently with what ever the patient will
take. It is a drink, so mixed with
a little. Some of all kinds are re-
frigerant, some supplant, others with
water. The most popularly used
is the sulphuric acid, which may be
used alone and mixed with water, the
collins, and the mixed of various
kinds, viz, orange, Currant, &c. It is
a refrigerant, cold water, viz, the
drank. It must be used freely
and moderately in quantity, but not
restoration health, which will ap-
pear soon. The patient is in a
ble state. From 10 to 15.



skin is hot and the pulse is slow and weak
we have no other satisfactory symptoms, or in-
flammatory affection of the lungs present.
But in the advanced stage we must ad-
opt this remedy with caution, and a
careful consideration of the attendant
circumstances. We may use such as
the following. As perspiring the body with
cold water, or the warm or vapour in
water, but we dashen us with camphor
or pain a pain in some cases is relief.
I think the former the most safe, and it
should therefore be preferred. When there
is irritability of the stomach we must
stop, for the affluents brought from
the water and milk or we milk alone.
With a view to determine the re-col-
lation in the surface of the body. It will
be useful in some cases to use. As
often the irritability of the stomach.



and particularly the enormous prepa-
ration given in small quantities de-
ries, have the greatest quantity. with
these results is an extremely remedy
in febrile affections, and is valuable
in almost any other dysphoretic sym-
ptom time the effect is first disor-
dered persons even and in some cases
prolong sleep which is generally con-
siderable. The warm bath is of great
use in the lower extremities and is used
in some cases in addition to, or instead
of the diaphoretic. When the patient
deteriorates from sleep and during
the time the patient, one may
be afraid of his recovery. Since
but enough warm from the heat
and stimulation medicines is said
to prove injurious. It otherwise now
happened when excited by much sleep



nal heat, instead of relieving the women
by, all night, and during the night, it in-
creases it, also the anxiety and difficulty of
breathing, head aches and vertigo.
When sweating is partial and confined
to the superior parts of the body, it will
be more likely to prove diarrhoeal than
constipating. If the irritability and
action of the stomach is not relaxed
by the effluvia, draughts of lime water
or a milk, we should add a few drops
of Camphor with a little Camphor.
In this fever, partial convulsions, such
as jerking and convulsions, which have
no tendency to prove critical of
any kind, the former may be checked
by stramonium, such as are generally
used in diarrhoea. The latter by pre-
serving the patient very cool, and
keeping the bowels occasionally with cold



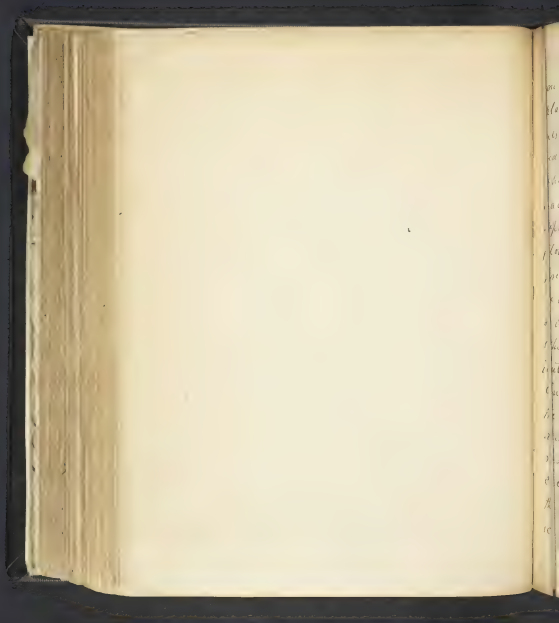
water by means of a syringe and at
the same time administer opi-
ates. We may distinguish critical
evacuations, from those which are not
by attending to the changes, which take
place in the system. If purging aris-
es and the tongue continues foul,
the skin hot and dry, without any
abatement of heat and thirst, we
may regard it as unfavourable.
But on the contrary, the tongue
becoming clean and moist; the
pulse moderating, the febrile symp-
toms abating, and a gentle sweat
diffused universally over the body,
then we may expect a speedy resolution
of the fever. In the progress of this fev-
er, it sometimes happens that cer-
tain parts of the body are much
more affected than others, as violent



21
pains in the head, stupor, or delirium
arise, and are to be treated by the appli-
cation of cold at its commencement,
as cold water or ice pounded and put
into a bladder. If these fail, topical
depletion opening the temporal artery,
leeches, cupping will be found of utility.
If these fail remove the hair of the
head, which if itself is beneficial.
and next apply a blister to the feet
on for twenty four hours. When there
is an unusual coldness of the extremi-
ties with a sinking pulse, apply blis-
ters to the ankles, wrists, and inside
of the legs and thighs. and a stimu-
lating cataplasms to the soles of the
feet and palms of the hands. They
will often speedily relieve those sym-
ptoms. at the same time giving in-
ternally, camphor, musk ammonia



and aether, either alone or in combination, and allowing the patient a liberal use of wine. There is often a great interruption of sleep. It is unfortunately however that it cannot be easily procured with safety to the patient, as opium is generally prejudicial in all fevers except those of the typhus kind. If necessity obliges us to use sedatives, the spiritus aetheris nitrosi and the means anodyne liquor will be the least exceptionable. Where the fever is kept up merely by want of rest and irritability of the stomach, opium given in small doses, may be of service. If it is found to procure refreshing sleep, the dose may be repeated as the circumstances of the case may demand. If at rest is disturbed it should be discontinued. Where opium is forbidden



on account of criticism we may
place a pillow of hops under the patient's
head. The remedy has some time pro-
ved to be singularly useful. It may also be
administered in the form of tincture or ex-
tract. In some instances the fever is
kept up solely by excitability. If the sym-
ptoms are mixed we may venture to
prescribe the peruvian bark, it may
be used either in substance, infusion
or decoction. Generally wine is that
which is least disagreeable to the pa-
tient's stomach. If on trial, the medi-
cine sits easy on the stomach, and
the patient sleeps well, breathes easy,
and finds no increase of heat we
may then continue its use. The effi-
cacy of this medicine is increased by
the addition of a few drops of sulphur-
ic acid. The bark is apt with many



people on first taking it, to run off by the bowels; we should then add five or six drops of laudanum to each dose.

We sometimes find it will not sit easy on the stomach, in almost any dose. In such cases, we may substitute the use of the Quapria, or any of the astringent bitters. The patient's food should be of light and easily digested ~~into~~ substances, as sago, Tapioca, inoia an arrow root, preparations of barley &c. He should carefully avoid animal food, as it would increase the heat of the body, and quicken the circulation, by acting as a stimulus.

For drink he may use barley water, thin gruel, toast and water, hartsued tea, milk whey, lemonade. apple water or an infusion of dried peaches &c. avoiding all stimulating

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potations. When the patient is in a convalescent state he should avoid any fatigue, or exposure to cold or sun. As restoratives he may use a generous diet but very digestible, and a moderate use of wine will be serviceable, and if the season of the year will admit cold bathing by affusion. A change of air with moderate, daily, exercise either in a carriage or on horseback, graduated to the strength of the patient, will prove powerful auxiliaries in enabling the patient to regain perfect health. Where the appetite is defective, we may use stomachic bitters, such as advised in dyspepsia.

We will generally find this to be all that is necessary for the cure of our ordinary Bilious fever. —

